

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Kosuta, 1989-2003

Last Update: 05-Apr-2004

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Independence: a tributary of Hunker

Map Sheet(s): 1150/14

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## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Dietmar Gritzka	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Emile Levesque	2002/01/01	2002/12/31	
Anton Kosuta	1995/01/01	2002/12/31	
David Kosuta	1994/01/01	2002/12/31	
Tony Kosuta	1989/01/01	2003/12/31	

## Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Dietmar Gritzka	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Emile Levesque	2002/01/01	2002/12/31	
Anton Kosuta	1995/01/01	2002/12/31	
David Kosuta	1994/01/01	2002/12/31	
David Kosuta	1993/01/01	1994/12/31	
Anton Kosuta	1991/01/01	2003/12/31	
Tony Kosuta	1989/01/01	2003/12/31	
Tony Kosuta	1989/01/01	1990/12/31	

## General Location

The property is situated at the mouth of Independence Creek, a left limit tributary of Hunker Creek.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2003/01/01	63	58	59	139	1	14		
2003/01/01	63	59	0	139	2	0		
1998/01/01	63	59	0	139	2	0		
1995/01/01	63	59	0	139	2	0		
1993/01/01	63	58	26	139	0	0	1,500	
1991/01/01	63	59	0	139	1	0		
1989/01/01	63	59	0	139	1	0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM99-098	Expires: 2004/09/30
PM95-105	
PM90-057	
PM88-123	
PM93-066	

**Status: Active Producer****Stream: Independence: a tributary of Hunker****Map Sheet(s): 1150/14****Page 2 of 4****Work History**

1989- Tony Kosuta ran the operation by himself.

1991/1992 - A cut on the left limit was opened up in 1992, measuring 40 feet by 35 feet.

Tony Kosuta mined by himself in 1993, and was joined by his son David in 1994. An area 80 feet by 150 feet was mined in 1993, and an area 100 feet by 140 feet in 1994.

1995-1997 Tony Kosuta continued to mine this small scale operation. Tony ran the operation by himself for most of the time, although he had some help in 1995 and 1996. A 60 foot wide by 150 foot long cut was processed in 1995. The same cut was enlarged during 1996 and another cut measuring 50 feet wide by 75 feet long was mined during 1997.

1998-2003 - Tony Kosuta ran the mine by himself most of the time. A cut measuring 150 feet long by 70 feet wide by 25 feet deep and a cut measuring 30 feet long by 15 feet wide by 18 feet deep were mined in 1998 and 1999. Mining continued upstream on Independence Creek at a similar rate through out 2000 and 2001. During the 2002 season, Tony Kosuta continued moving upstream using an instream reservoir to supply water for sluicing. Emile Levesque stripped a small cut along the left limit at the mouth of Independence Creek. The following year, Dietmar drilled along the right limit of Independence Creek, while Tony Kosuta stripped upstream from where he finished in 2002. All sluicing occurred at the mouth of Independence Creek.

**Equipment**

In 1989, the sluice plant was a conventional dump box and single sluice run. The 8 foot wide by 10 foot long dump box tapers to 24 inches at the throat and feeds the 24-inch wide by 36-foot long sluice run. Production was estimated at a maximum of 45 cubic yards per hour. Water for sluicing was pumped from an instream pond on Independence Creek or the out-of-stream test pits, which fill with run-off water. An 8 by 6 inch pump powered by a D4 Caterpillar engine supplied water to the sluice box. The effluent flowed into an area of old dry dredge tailings. Outflow is by ground seepage only.

In 1992, a D9 Cat bulldozer was rented to strip overburden, and a D5 Cat bulldozer was used to clear tailings. A 930 Cat loader was used to excavate and carry pay from the cut to the wash plant. The wash plant consisted of an end dump box 8 feet by 10 feet and tapering to 2 feet fed into a single sluice run 2 feet wide by 36 feet long. The first section of the run was lined with matting, angle iron riffles, and stepped down sections of punch plate. Most of the run used matting and angle iron riffles. The last 10 feet used matting, angle iron riffles, and punch plate. An old 8 by 6 inch Y.C.G.C. pump powered by a D4 Cat engine pumped 1200 igpm needed for the 25 cubic yards per hour of material processed.

Water was pumped from the test pit, where seepage inflow and melt provided enough water. The effluent was channeled into an area of old dredge tailings and discharged into Hunker Creek by seepage.

In 1993, a 941 Caterpillar loader was used for stripping, and the Cat 930 loader fed the sluice plant. Tailings were ramped off with the Cat D5 bulldozer or carried away with the 941 loader. The same wash plant was used this year as in 1992.

In 1994, a large bulldozer was hired in 1994 to do some heavy stripping work. All water came from seepage inflow into the mine cut. It was sometimes difficult to keep the cut dry even when using the inflow for regular sluicing. The effluent was treated in an area of old dredge tailings with discharge to Hunker Creek by seepage.

1995-1997: An older Caterpillar D5 bulldozer, a 941 Caterpillar track loader, a Caterpillar 4R bulldozer and a Caterpillar 930 loader were used to mine this property. The track loader and the 930 Loader were usually used for stripping and feeding the sluice plant. Occasional large stripping and trenching jobs were contracted out. An 8-foot wide by 14 foot long dump box tapers down to a 3-foot wide by 24-foot long single run sluice run. The dump box and sluice run is lined with matting and angle iron riffles. A Caterpillar 8 by 6-inch pump supplied the estimated 1200 igpm needed to process approximately 50 cubic yards per hour. An instream reservoir was constructed on Independence Creek and the water was piped to the sluice plant with a gravity system. A sump pump was also used to recycle water from a large out-of-stream mine pit in 1995 and 1996. No recycling was done during 1997. The effluent was treated in the mined out cuts downstream and in an area of dredge tailings.

In 1998-2003, A Caterpillar D5B bulldozer, a Caterpillar D6 bulldozer, a Caterpillar 941 track loader and a

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Caterpillar 930 loader were all used during the mining of this property. The D5B bulldozer and 941 track loader were used for most of the stripping and clearing tailings. The 930 loader was used for feeding the box and tailings as well. When larger jobs were required they were contracted out. An 8 foot wide by 14 foot long dump box tapers down to a 3 foot wide by 24 foot long single sluice run. The dump box and sluice run is lined with nomad matting and angle iron riffles. A Paco 10 by 8 inch pump powered by a Caterpillar D330 engine supplied the estimated 2000 igpm needed to process between 15 and 30 cubic yards per hour. An instream reservoir was constructed on Independence Creek and the water was piped to the sluice plant with a gravity system. Water was also available to be recycled from the settling facility constructed in the old mine pit at the mouth of Independence Creek. Additional settling area was being constructed in 2001 utilizing an area of old dredge tailings.

**Landforms**

<b>Landform</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Alluvial Valley	

**Surficial Geology**

The deposit mined in 1989 was approximately 30 to 35 feet to bedrock which had only been reached in an exploratory hole. Alternating layers of largely thawed black muck and gravel were found in all cuts. Material from all depths has been sluiced in the bulk testing program.

The left limit cut in 1992 consisted of 1 foot of organics on top of 14 feet of frozen black muck and mud, over 4 feet of gravel. Oldtimers tailings were found in many areas. All of the gravel plus 1 foot of bedrock were sluiced. The ground mined in 1993 averaged 25 feet deep but appeared to be getting shallower. A thin vegetative layer covered a mixture of gravel, muck, and silt. The mixed layer was found from the surface to bedrock. Gold was found throughout the profile so everything was sluiced along with 2 to 3 feet of bedrock.

In 1995, the depth to bedrock varied from 12 to 20 feet deep. Normally a shallow layer of moss overlays 12 to 15 feet of frozen black muck. Usually 2 to 3 feet of gravel was found sitting on black shaly bedrock. All of the gravel and a small amount of bedrock was processed. The pay streak has been found to alternate from the right to the left limit of the valley and can be very spotty.

In 1998, as mining progressed upstream on Independence Creek the over all depth decreased. The ground averaged 18 feet deep through out 1998 and into 2000 with 10 feet of frozen black muck overlying 8 feet of gravel. In 2001 the depth decreased to 12 feet with muck/gravel along with boulders on the bedrock. All of the gravels and a small amount of the bedrock was sluiced.

**Bedrock Geology**

Bedrock was decomposed Kolndike Scist.

**Gold Comments**

In 1989, gold recovered was fine, rounded and rough. Fineness was 800. In 1991 and 1992, most of the gold was fine and flat, although a 1/2 ounce nugget was found. Fineness was 817.

In 1993, the gold was rough and rounded. Fineness ranged from 775 to 790.

In 1995 the gold tended to be rough and much of it was stained black. A mixture of coarse and fine gold was recovered with an occasional nugget. The purity was approximately 750.

In 1998, the gold was reported to be mainly flat and fine. A few small nuggets were recovered. The purity of the gold was approximately 775 fine.

**References**

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### Pictures

**Title:** Anton Kosuta, Independence Creek

#### Notes:

From 1998 through 2002, Tony Kosuta continued to operate a small-scale operation near the mouth of Independence Creek.

